

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8-21, 23 and 24 are pending. Claims 8-19 are withdrawn. Claims 20, 21, 23 and 24 are presently under consideration. Claim 20 has been amended by the present Amendment.

Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, claim 20 has been amended to specifically recite that the C-terminal extension can be 19 amino acids or less. Claim 21 is dependent from claim 20. Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's statement that claims 20 and 21 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 23 and 24 are dependent on claim 20, and are also allowable once the base claim 20 is allowable.

Applicants also gratefully acknowledge that the rejection of claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) has been withdrawn.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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